



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Deval L. Patrick  
EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.  
DCR Commissioner John P. Murray

**Press Release Contacts:** William Hickey — (617) 626 -1453 or [william.hickey@state.ma.us](mailto:william.hickey@state.ma.us)

**Patrick Administration Announces Funding for Improvements to  
DCR's Shaffer Paper Site in Dorchester**

DORCHESTER— Thursday, December 12, 2013—Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jack Murray today joined Boston Mayor-Elect Martin J. Walsh and other state officials to announce \$4.25 million in capital funding to clean-up the former Shaffer Paper site in the Port Norfolk section of Dorchester. When completed, the project will convert the contaminated former industrial property into a park, with links to several other parklands in the area.

"Under Governor Patrick's leadership, we have been able to provide access to thousands of acres of open space and parkland across the Commonwealth," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. "The Shaffer Paper site is the final step in reclaiming the former industrial side of Dorchester's Neponset River Shoreline, and we are excited to move forward with this project."

The Patrick Administration has allocated \$250,000 for permitting in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, \$1 million in FY15 and an additional \$3 million in construction funding allocated for FY16. DCR will continue to work with the community during the permitting process over the next year. This will include placement of trees, paths and other amenities. GEI Consultants of Woburn will serve as design consultants on the project. DCR has conducted a number of local public meetings as well as regular presentations to local groups.

"DCR is charged with protecting and enhancing our common wealth of natural, cultural and environmental resources" said DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. "The restoration of the former Shaffer Paper site will provide a gateway to a number of parks throughout the area and will quickly become a community asset that will be enjoyed for generations."

Located along the lower Neponset River, adjacent to DCR's Pope John Paul Park, the 15 acre parcel was formerly the site of two lumber companies that transported wood products on the Old Colony Railroad. The site was contaminated by uncontrolled releases of hazardous waste, including chromium as a result of this use. The land was taken by eminent domain for \$1.9 million by DCR In 1986. Since then, the Commonwealth has invested \$3 million in building demolition, environmental testing and remediation of the property.

"I have strongly and vocally advocated for the cleanup of this site for my entire 16 years in the Legislature, and I know that the fight began long before my time also," said Mayor-Elect Walsh. "This has been an area of critical concern for decades and this will completely change the face of the Port Norfolk neighborhood and of Dorchester. I'm extremely pleased that this funding has been secured, and I look forward to watching the restoration of this property."

"This is an exciting time for the residents of the Port Norfolk neighborhood of Dorchester who for so long tirelessly advocated for these improvements," said State Senator Linda Darcena Forry. "I want to thank Governor Deval Patrick and his team, DCR Commissioner Jack Murray and Energy Secretary

Rick Sullivan, as well as my colleagues Mayor-Elect Marty Walsh and Councilor Frank Baker for working with me to secure \$4.25 million in capital funding to clean up the contaminated Shaffer Paper site.”

“The clean-up will not only enhance the shoreline of Dorchester but will serve as a critical link to the Neponset River Greenway and Boston Harborwalk which benefits the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” Senator Forry continued.

“I know the Port Norfolk neighborhood has been waiting for this funding to come to fruition for many years. This is very exciting news for both the Port Norfolk residents as well as Dorchester as a whole. I'm happy to stand with my colleagues in state government who successfully advocated for this funding,” said City Councilor Frank Baker.

“This is exciting and welcome news. The Shaffer Paper site has presented real challenges but Port Norfolk residents, their elected officials, DCR and advocates never gave up the goal of turning this abandoned place into a beautiful park,” said Boston Natural Areas Network President Valerie Burns. “With the announcement of this funding, the chain of public riverfront parks in the Lower Neponset will be complete. A remarkable achievement! On behalf of all the volunteers of the Neponset River Greenway Council, congratulations!”

Since taking office, Governor Deval Patrick has made a historic investment of more than \$300 million in land conservation focused on three goals: investing in urban parks, preserving working farms and forests and protecting large natural landscapes for habitat. This investment has resulted in the permanent protection of more than 110,000 acres of land and the renovation or creation of more than 170 parks. The new parks and open space created are within a ten minute walk of 1.5 million residents – about a quarter of the Commonwealth’s residents.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Jack Murray, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us)

###

- Follow DCR on Twitter..... [twitter.com/massDCR](https://twitter.com/massDCR)
- View videos on You Tube..... [www.youtube.com/MassEEA](http://www.youtube.com/MassEEA)
- View downloadable photographs on Flickr..... [www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/)
- Visit the Energy Smarts blog..... [www.mass.gov/blog/energy](http://www.mass.gov/blog/energy)
- Visit The Great Outdoors blog..... [www.mass.gov/blog/environment](http://www.mass.gov/blog/environment)
- Visit our website..... <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/>

251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 626-1250 office / (617) 626-1351 (fax)